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Dr. Grace

Essential Belief Statement

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All growing up, I realized I never really minded school like my friends did. While they were always complaining about having to go every day, I would cry if I was forced to stay home from being sick. As I was getting older, my mom always told everyone that I would be a lawyer and a great one, so I stuck with that for awhile. I had always thought about teaching though because I knew I really wanted to do it, but I was always told I would never make enough money. In classes, I realized that I always critiqued my teachers on how they taught constantly. It was like my job to find problems or successes in their teaching. When it was my chance to apply to colleges, I made the sudden switch to everyone that what I really wanted to do was be a teacher and be happy in life because that was what really mattered to me; I’ve never looked back and never thought twice about whether I want to teach forever because I see myself in forty years still being this passionate.

Deciding whether or not I wanted to be a teacher was the hard part, so when I decided what content area I wanted to be in forever, I was always between History and Math. Math is something that I became very good at in high school, and I loved how there are so many different types of math I can teach and change is important to me. History is a subject that I just love learning about, but I didn’t believe I would be happy teaching it for years, so the ultimate decision was math.

The way I learn will affect the methods and approaches I use in the classroom slightly, but I really do not think it will affect the classroom a huge amount. Math is a subject that is very open and every different type of math has multiple ways to teach it, so I can always find my weak areas to improve for students to all get the best out of my teaching.

My expectations about teaching is that I will be a teacher that really tries to change lives as teachers did for me. Being a first generation college student, I want students to really believe that they can be something in this world. Whatever life they have, they have the ultimate decision on what happens to them, and no one else. To me, math is important for students to learn and I understand it is very hard for most students, but I also want them to know that they can also learn life lessons. I do worry that I don’t know if I will be too nice of a teacher and get walked on and that is a fear of mine because I tend to have a big heart and might be too lenient.

I expect to get the tools I need to create a great learning environment that every student will be able to succeed in. I want to make math not so dreadful for students and turn their views around about past experiences they may have had.